

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Claim 22 has been amended to recite, "wherein the cleaning gas plumbing arrangement includes a plurality of fluid paths coupling the cleaning gas source to each cleaning gas distribution channel". This amendment is supported by at least paragraph [0024] and figure 1 of the specification, and hence no new matter has been added. In addition, claim 26 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error.

1. Claims 7 and 22-25 are patentable over van Os et al. (US patent 5,792,272), hereinafter "van Os".

Claim 22, as amended, is patentable inasmuch as van Os fails to teach or suggest a system having a cleaning gas plumbing arrangement which includes "a plurality of fluid paths coupling the cleaning gas source to each cleaning gas distribution channel", as recited in claim 22. In fact, van Os teaches away from the present invention. Van Os teaches, "Channels 46 and 48 are each connected to a gas source 50 and 52 (not shown) through conduits 54 and 56 via supply lines 58 and 60 (not shown)." (van Os, 7:23-25) This arrangement is also depicted in figure 4 of van Os, where the gas source should be labeled as 50, but has been mislabeled with the reference numeral 76. In other words, channel 46 is connected to gas source 50 by conduit 54 via supply line 58. Similarly, channel 48 is connected to gas source 52 through conduit 56 via supply line 60. Hence, van Os teaches away from the present invention as each channel is connected to its gas source through a single fluid path (i.e., the fluid path being a conduit connected to a supply line). Hence, claim 22 is patentable over van Os. Because claim 22 is patentable, claims 7 and 23-25 are patentable by virtue of their dependency from claim 22.

2. Claims 8, 9, and 26 are patentable over van Os, in view of Zhao et al. (US patent 5,853,607), hereinafter "Zhao".

Because claim 22 is patentable over van Os, claims 8, 9, and 26 are patentable over van Os by virtue of their dependency from claim 22. Zhao fails to cure the above-mentioned deficiencies of van Os, and hence claims 8, 9, and 26 are patentable over the cited combination of references whether considered separately or in combination with one another.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the claims are patentable over the references cited in the Final Office Action. If there are any additional fees due in connection with this communication, please charge Deposit Account No. 19-3140.

Respectfully submitted,
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